



### **VERIFICATION STATEMENT FOR TRANSLATION**

In the matter of  
U.S. Serial No. 09/833,651  
in the name of Yasuhiro NAKAI et  
al.

I, Kazuteru SHIMURA, hereby declare that I am conversant with the Japanese and the English languages and that I am the translator of the document attached and certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and correct English translation of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-157086 on which U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/833,651 filed on April 13, 2001 is based.

This 18th day of May, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuteru SHIMURA".

Kazuteru SHIMURA



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Japanese Patent Application 2000-157086

[Name of Thing]	Drawings	1
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[Requirement of Proof]	Required	



[NAME OF DOCUMENT] SPECIFICATION

[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

PRINT CONTROL OPERATION SYSTEM USING ICONS

[SCOPE OF CLAIM FOR PATENT]

5 [CLAIM 1]

A print control operation system using icons, wherein on a display frame for displaying a print icon having predetermined print conditions and an icon of a file to be printed, a print operation of the file is executed under the 10 predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon, characterized in that the print icon is displayed on the display frame in a display form which allows the predetermined print conditions set in the print icon to be recognizable.

15 [CLAIM 2]

A print control operation system using icons according to claim 1, wherein at a time point when an icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, an outline of the print conditions preset in the print icon is displayed 20 on the display frame.

[CLAIM 3]

A print control operation system using icons according to claim 1, wherein at a time point when an icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, a printing 25 preview of the file icon is displayed on the display frame.

## [CLAIM 4]

5 A print control operation system using icons according to claim 1, wherein when a plurality of icons of files to be printed are dragged and dropped on the print icon, the files are sequentially printed as a series of recorded matters.

## [CLAIM 5]

10 A print control operation system using icons according to claim 1, wherein when an icon of a file to be printed is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a window for setting the print conditions of the print icon opens.

## [CLAIM 6]

15 A print control operation system using icons according to claim 1, wherein when a file icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting a printing operation is automatically selected based on the print conditions set in the print icon.

## [CLAIM 7]

20 A print control operation system using icons according to claim 6, wherein when a file icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting a printing operation is automatically selected from the printers that are standby, based on the print conditions set in the print icon.

## [CLAIM 8]

25 A print control operation system using icons according

to claim 6, wherein the print icon is set with a printer to be used as one of set conditions thereof, the state of the printer is monitored in the system, and when the printer is in such a state that the printer cannot execute an operation 5 designated by the print icon, the print icon is controlled so as not to be displayed.

[CLAIM 9]

A print control operation system using icons, wherein on a display frame for displaying a print icon having 10 predetermined print conditions and an icon of a file to be printed, a print operation of the file is executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon, characterized in that a print icon having new print conditions 15 set therein can be formed when a predetermined plurality of print icons displayed on the display frame and having different print conditions are coupled.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

20 [0001]

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to an operation system for starting processing with a drag and drop operation of 25 icons. In particular, the present invention relates to a print control operation system in the case where printing is

conducted on a printer.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

As a printout instruction method on an application, there  
5 is a method which includes the steps of giving a print order  
with a file (data) being opened on the application, opening  
a printer property each time, designating various print  
conditions as necessary, such as duplex printing, dual page  
printing, whether there is a need of stapling, the number  
10 of printouts and the like, and then actuating an output  
operation.

[0003]

In the above, when printout of a file needs to be ordered,  
it is typical that printing is instructed with the target  
15 file being opened necessarily on an application. There is  
however a problem in that opening a target file on the  
application each time results in poor operativity and further  
needs a long time to set up output conditions.

[0004]

20 As a method for solving this problem, there is a known  
technique in which a printing operation is started by a  
so-called drag and drop operation, i.e., dragging an icon  
representing a document, and superposing and dropping the  
icon on an icon representing a printer.

25 [0005]

In a printer control system disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Hei 06 No. 059838, when a drag and drop operation is detected, document output or document output waiting states connected to a plurality of printers are displayed on the operation screen with icons together with the icons representing the printers. Further, when a drag and drop operation is detected and the output destination of a document is altered, the output waiting state of the printer after alteration is displayed on the operation screen with an icon together with the icon representing the printer. Since it is possible to control jobs in a queue by operating the icons owing to this technique, it is not necessary to display a window for conducting such a separate operation, and it is possible to make the operation for opening and closing the window unnecessary.

10  
15 [0006]

Disclosed in Japanese Patent Application disclosure Hei 08 No. 511637 is a graphical user interface and method for selectively opening a container object at the time of a drag and drop operation. In this technology, when the window including an icon as a drop destination is closed, the closed window is adapted to be automatically opened by dragging another icon onto the icon that represents the closed window and conducting some operation. With this technique, the 20  
25 inside of an enclosure can be viewed during the drag operation.

It is also possible to open the hierarchy of an enclosure contained in a newly opened window, and it is possible to access the whole hierarchy of the storage system. As a result, a duplication function and a movement function of the graphical user interface based on windows and icons could be improved.

5

[0007]

## [Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

10

In the case of start of a printing operation, however, if printing needs to be done with the setting such as paper to be used or designation of reduction printing altered, it is impossible in the conventional technique to alter the setting of the process to be started, by dropping. In such a case, it is necessary in the conventional technique to open a file on an application, alter the print operation setting, and then execute printing.

15

[0008]

20

The present invention has been devised in view of the above problems, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a print control operation system using icons in which when printing needs to be done after altering the print operation setting, the printing operation can be performed without opening a file to be printed on an application.

[0009]

## [Means for Solving the Problems]

25

In order to solve the above problem, a print control

operation system using icons corresponding to Claim 1 (to be referred to hereinbelow as the invention 1), wherein on a display frame for displaying a print icon having predetermined print conditions and an icon of a file to be printed, a print operation of the file is executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon, is characterized in that the print icon is displayed on the display frame in a display form which allows the predetermined print conditions set in the print icon to be recognizable.

5 [0010]

With this configuration, a file can be printed under frequently utilized print conditions by a drag and drop operation without opening the file on an application. Further, 10 by only viewing the icon display on the control frame, the set print conditions can be known.

15 [0011]

The configuration of this invention 1 may be constructed such that at a time point when an icon of a file to be printed 20 is superposed on the print icon, an outline of the print conditions preset in the print icon is displayed on the display frame.

25 [0012]

With this configuration, the user can easily recognize the print conditions set in the print icon.

5 [0013]

Further, the configuration of this invention 1 may be constructed such that at a time point when an icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, a printing preview of the file icon is displayed on the display frame.

10 [0014]

With this configuration, the user can confirm the contents of a file to be printed without opening the file on an application.

15 [0015]

Further, the configuration of this invention 1 may be constructed such that when a plurality of icons of files to be printed are dragged and dropped on the print icon, the files are sequentially printed as a series of recorded matters.

15 [0016]

With this configuration, integrated print processing of a plurality of files becomes possible.

[0017]

Further, the configuration of this invention 1 may be constructed such that when an icon of a file to be printed is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a window for setting the print conditions of the print icon opens.

[0018]

With this configuration, print conditions can be set when the user drags and drops a file to print, and consequently

it is possible to save time for opening the setting frame separately.

[0019]

Further, the configuration of this invention 1 may be constructed such that when a file icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting a printing operation is automatically selected based on the print conditions set in the print icon.

[0020]

With this configuration, a printer capable of executing print conditions previously designated as a print icon is automatically selected from a plurality of printers connected on the network. Accordingly, it is possible to perform printout with simple operation control without giving any print job order, after confirming and grasping situations of all printers.

[0021]

This configuration is preferably adapted such that when a file icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting a printing operation is automatically selected from the printers that are standby, based on the print conditions set in the print icon.

[0022]

With this configuration, since a printer capable of immediately executing the print conditions previously

designated as a print icon is automatically selected from a plurality of printers connected on the network, rapid output is made possible.

[0023]

5           Further, this configuration is preferably adapted such that the print icon is set with a printer to be used as one of set conditions thereof, the state of the printer is monitored in the system, and when the printer is in such a state that the printer cannot execute an operation designated by the  
10 print icon, the print icon is controlled so as not to be displayed.

[0024]

With this configuration, if no printer capable of executing the print conditions previously designated as a  
15 print icon exist on the network, a print order to the print icon is disabled.

[0025]

Further, a print control operation system using icons corresponding to Claim 9 (to be referred to hereinbelow as  
20 the invention 2), wherein on a display frame for displaying a print icon having predetermined print conditions and an icon of a file to be printed, a print operation of the file is executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file  
25 icon on the print icon is characterized in that a print icon

having new print conditions set therein can be formed when a predetermined plurality of print icons displayed on the display frame and having different print conditions are coupled.

5 [0026]

With this configuration, print conditions set in different print icons can be combined, thus making it possible to realize a variety of print operations.

[0027]

10 [Embodiment of the Invention]

Next, the embodiment of a print control operation system using icons of the present invention will be described. FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a drag and drop operation in the present embodiment.

15 [0028]

When printing is actuated by using icons, default printing can be conducted simply by dragging an icon of a file and superposing and dropping it on a print icon (a drag and drop operation).

20 [0029]

In the present embodiment, print conditions (paper size, duplex/ one-sided, output location etc.,) can be set in the print icon, so that by dragging and dropping an icon of a file to be printed onto the print icon with the conditions set up, printing can be executed under the set conditions.

25

[0030]

In the system of the present embodiment, a print icon 11 and an icon representing a manuscript file as a file icon, i.e., a manuscript file icon 12 are displayed on a desktop 1 of a PC or the like as shown in FIG. 1. At least manuscript file icon 12 is adapted to be able to be moved by a pointer 2.

[0031]

The specific method of this operation is as follows.

[0032]

First, as shown in FIG. 1(a), the user superposes the pointer 2 on the manuscript file icon 12, and moves the pointer 2 to an arbitrary position while pressing a button of an unillustrated mouse (drag operation). Then, as the user releases the mouse button in a state where the manuscript file icon 12 is superposed on the print icon 11 as shown in FIG. 1(b), the manuscript file icon 12 is fixed on a position where it superposes the print icon 11 so that a printing operation is performed under the conditions set in the print icon 11.

[0033]

When printing of a file is conducted in this operation, the printing operation is executed based on the conditions set in the print icon 11. However, there are cases where the user wants to alter the setting of print conditions, so that

it is so configured that the print conditions in the print icon 11 can be altered.

[0034]

5 A method for setting the print conditions in this print icon 11 will be described. FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a property setting frame for setting print conditions in the present embodiment. By double clicking the pointer at a position where it is superposed on the print icon 11 as shown in FIG. 2, a property setting frame 21 is opened. In this 10 property setting frame 21, when the user sets print conditions at user disposal and then clicks a printing condition preservation key, the set conditions are preserved in the print icon 11. In this way, when the user wants to print a file by altering the print processing conditions, it is 15 possible for the user to alter the setting of the print conditions in the print icon 11 and then execute the printing by a drag and drop operation of the file icon. In this way, the operation can be executed without the necessity of opening an application.

20 [0035]

It should be noted that in the print icon, it is not always necessary to set up all conditions beforehand. It is possible to provide an alternative configuration in which an input window for some of the conditions that are frequently 25 altered can automatically pop up when a drag and drop of the

file icon 12 is conducted. FIG. 3 is a diagram for explaining this configuration, in which when the manuscript file icon 12 shown in FIG. 3(a) is dragged and dropped onto the print icon 11, a copy number input frame 14 appears so that a printing operation is started after input of the number of copies. In this case, setting conditions other than the number of copies follow the conditions that have been set up beforehand for the print icon.

5 [0036]

10 The above print icon 11 can be formed so that its display may change according to the setting of the print conditions. This allows the user to confirm the print conditions easily, and improves the utility. The print icon 11 illustrated in FIG. 1 shows a condition of setting where multi-shot (2 in 15 1), i.e., two manuscripts printed on one sheet of paper is selected while no stapling is conducted.

15 [0037]

20 With this configuration whereby the user can easily confirm the set print conditions in the print icon, the utility of the system of the present embodiment can be improved. In other words, if the setting frame shown in FIG. 2 must be opened in order to confirm the conditions set in the print icon 11, the user must remember the set conditions. If the user does not remember, the user has to open the setting frame 25 and confirm the conditions whenever printing a file, resulting

in inconvenience. Further, if the user misunderstands the conditions set in the print icon, and executes a print operation without confirming the set conditions, there is also a fear that a printed matter that is not desired by the user will be obtained. In the present embodiment, all such inconveniences are eliminated, and it is possible to perform a print operation quickly and also based on desired print conditions.

5 [0038]

10 As a method for confirming the print conditions, it is also possible to provide a configuration as shown in FIG. 5 in which a window 17 for displaying the print conditions set in the print icon 11 is automatically opened when the user has dragged the file icon 12 to be printed onto the print 15 icon 11 so that the user can confirm the print conditions through the window 17 and then drop the file icon 12, to thereby perform printing.

15 [0039]

20 Further, in the system of the present embodiment, the file to be printed is subject to print operation without being opened on the application. For this reason, if there is another file having a similar file name or in other cases, the user might print a different file by mistake. For preventing such a trouble, there can be adopted such a 25 configuration that a window 18 for displaying a preview of

a file is automatically opened as shown in FIG. 6 when the user has dragged the file icon 12 to be printed onto the print icon 11. The user can confirm the contents of the file through this window 18, then printing is executed as the user drops the file icon 12.

5 [0040]

It is also possible to print out a plurality of files en bloc by dragging and dropping a plurality of file icons 12 and 15 onto the print icon 11 shown in FIG. 4(a) 10 simultaneously as shown in FIG. 4(b). FIG. 7 is a diagram showing such a print operation of a plurality of files. In this case, when a plurality of file icons 12 and 15 are dragged and dropped onto the print icon 11, that is, when file 12 of a project plan and file 15 of a schedule chart, which are 15 originally separate files, are to be printed simultaneously by a drag and drop operation, a series of recording matters are printed based on the information of the files 12 and 15. The recording matters are output with sequential page numbers so that they can be recognized as a series of recording matters.

20 [0041]

In this case, it is also possible to open a preview and page setting frame 21 as shown in FIG. 11 so as to allow for various kinds of setting when the files 12 and 15 are dragged and dropped onto the print icon. Furthermore, if a plurality 25 of files are thus dragged and dropped, then a setting frame

for printing a page number, a file name, and date is displayed. Moreover, it is also possible to set a print range etc. By clicking a print condition setting key, it is also possible to alter the setting of the print conditions (various functions). By dragging each page on a preview frame 20, interchange of pages can be conducted. At that time, page information is also re-assigned automatically.

[0042]

It is also possible to create a plurality of print icons on the desktop. That is, when there are a plurality of frequently used printing conditions, and if there is only one print icon, the user needs to frequently change the setting at printing so that the burden on the user becomes heavy. If a plurality of print icons with different settings are displayed, then the user can obtain a printed matter, printed under desired conditions, by only changing the drop destination of the file icon to be printed.

[0043]

When a plurality of print icons are displayed, they are managed by a management table as shown in FIG. 8. By this management of setting conditions (the output form, the number of copies, etc.) of different print icons, control as follows is made possible.

[0044]

For example, it is assumed in the system of the present

embodiment that a plurality of printers are connected on a network and an arbitrary printer can be selected to execute a print operation. When a print order is issued by dragging and dropping a file icon onto a certain print icon, a printer capable of performing the operation based on the print conditions registered in that print icon can be automatically selected. At this time, if a printer is selected from the printers that are standby at that point of time, printing can be done rapidly, resulting in being preferable.

10 [0045]

Alternatively, it is possible to set a printer to be used, in each print icon as a condition. In this case, however, the state of the printer set in each print icon is checked so that the print icon of the printer that cannot conduct processing will not be displayed. For example, if stapling is set in a print icon and the set printer runs out of staples, or the like, then the print icon will not be displayed. Also in the case where the power supply to the set printer is not on, the print icon will not be displayed. Or it is also possible to make the print icon that cannot operate gray out so as to explicitly indicate that the function is prohibited.

20 [0046]

In the system of the present embodiment, a print icon can also be newly created on the desktop. In this case, for 25 example, print conditions are first set on the property setting

frame as shown in FIG. 9 and the print condition preservation key is clicked, so that a print icon having these conditions set therein is created.

[0047]

5 Furthermore, it is also possible to couple a plurality of print icons having different print conditions previously registered therein and create a print icon having new print conditions registered therein. For example, when there are 10 a print icon 31 having multi-shot processing set therein and a print icon 32 having stapling set therein as shown in FIG. 10, a print icon 312 having both the multi-shot processing and the stapling set therein is generated by dragging one of the icons and dropping it onto the other.

[0048]

15 As an example of this configuration, a case where icons A and B having "duplex print," "staple," and "multi-shot" as set functions are coupled will be described. FIG. 12 shows a function priority matrix table of the icons A and B.

[0049]

20 In the case where the function setting contents of the icon B is added to the function setting state of the icon A, the contents of setting are determined according to contents prescribed by a priority matrix table of each function as shown in FIG. 12. Print processing is conducted on the basis 25 of the set print conditions.

[0050]

[Effect of the Invention]

As heretofore described, since in the print control operation system using icons of the present invention 1 a print icon is displayed on the display screen in such a form that print conditions, which are previously set up with the print icon, is recognizable, it is possible to perform printing of a file, simply and quickly, under the frequently utilized print conditions by a drag and drop operation without opening the file on an application. In addition, it is possible to know the set print conditions by only viewing the icon display on the control frame, hence make easy checking and avoid wrong printing.

[0051]

In the configuration of the present invention 1, when an outline of the print conditions preset in a print icon is adapted to be displayed on the display screen at a point of time when a file icon to be printed is laid over the print icon, the user can easily recognize print conditions, which is convenient to the user.

[0052]

In the configuration of the invention 1, when a printing preview of a file icon is adapted to be displayed on the display screen at a point of time when the file icon of a file to be printed is laid over the print icon, it is possible for

the user to check the contents of the file to be printed without opening the file on an application and perform printing efficiently and reliably.

[0053]

5 In the configuration of the invention 1, when a configuration is provided such that when a plurality of file icons of files to be printed are dragged and dropped on the print icon, these files are sequentially printed as a series of recorded matters, so that an integrated print operation 10 of the files can be done, which can produce efficiency and variety in printing form.

Further, in the configuration of the invention 1, when a configuration is provided such that when a file to be printed is dragged and dropped onto the print icon a window for setting 15 the print conditions of the print icon appears, it is possible for the user to set up print conditions when dragging and dropping the file. Accordingly, it is possible to perform an easy and quick printing operation without the need of separate opening the setting frame.

20 [0054]

Moreover, in the configuration of the invention 1, when a configuration is provided such that when a file to be printed is dragged and dropped onto a print icon a printer capable of performing the printing based on the print conditions set 25 in the print icon is automatically selected, a printer capable

of executing the print conditions previously set in the print icon is automatically selected from the multiple printers connected on the network. Accordingly, it is possible to print it out with simple control and designation. Since if there 5 is a printer in a standby state as a printer to be automatically selected, the printer capable of immediately executing the print conditions is automatically selected. Hence, more rapid output can be made.

[0055]

10 Further, in the above configuration, when a print icon is controlled so as not to be displayed when the printer is in such a state that it cannot execute the designated operation, an order cannot be given from the beginning to the print icon that is unable to conduct the print operation. Hence, no 15 confusion will occur.

[0056]

Furthermore, since the print control operation system of the present invention 2 is constructed so as to create a print icon having new print conditions set therein by coupling 20 a plurality of print icons displayed on the display screen and having different print conditions, the print conditions can be combined so as to perform various printing operations, dealing with a variety of printed forms.

25 [BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

[FIG. 1]

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a drag and drop operation in accordance with the present embodiment.

[FIG. 2]

5 FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a property setting frame for setting print conditions in the present embodiment.

[FIG. 3]

10 FIG. 3 is a diagram for illustrating a setting operation of print conditions in the present embodiment.

[FIG. 4]

FIG. 4 is a diagram for illustrating a printing operation when a plurality of file icons are dragged and dropped simultaneously in the present embodiment.

[FIG. 5]

15 FIG. 5 is a diagram for illustrating a method for confirming print conditions applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 6]

FIG. 6 is a diagram showing a preview of a file to be printed, applied to the present embodiment.

20 [FIG. 7]

FIG. 7 is a diagram for illustrating a print operation of a plurality of files, applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 8]

25 FIG. 8 is a diagram showing a management table of a plurality of print icons, applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 9]

FIG. 9 is a diagram for illustrating a method for newly creating a print icon, applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 10]

5 FIG. 10 is a diagram for illustrating a method of coupling two print icons, applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 11]

10 FIG. 11 is a diagram showing a preview and page setting frame in a case where two files have been dragged and dropped onto a print icon, applied to the present embodiment.

[FIG. 12]

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a function priority matrix table of icons A and B when they are coupled, applied to the present embodiment.

15 [DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS]

1 ....desktop

11, 31, 32, 312 .... print icons

12, 15 .... file icons

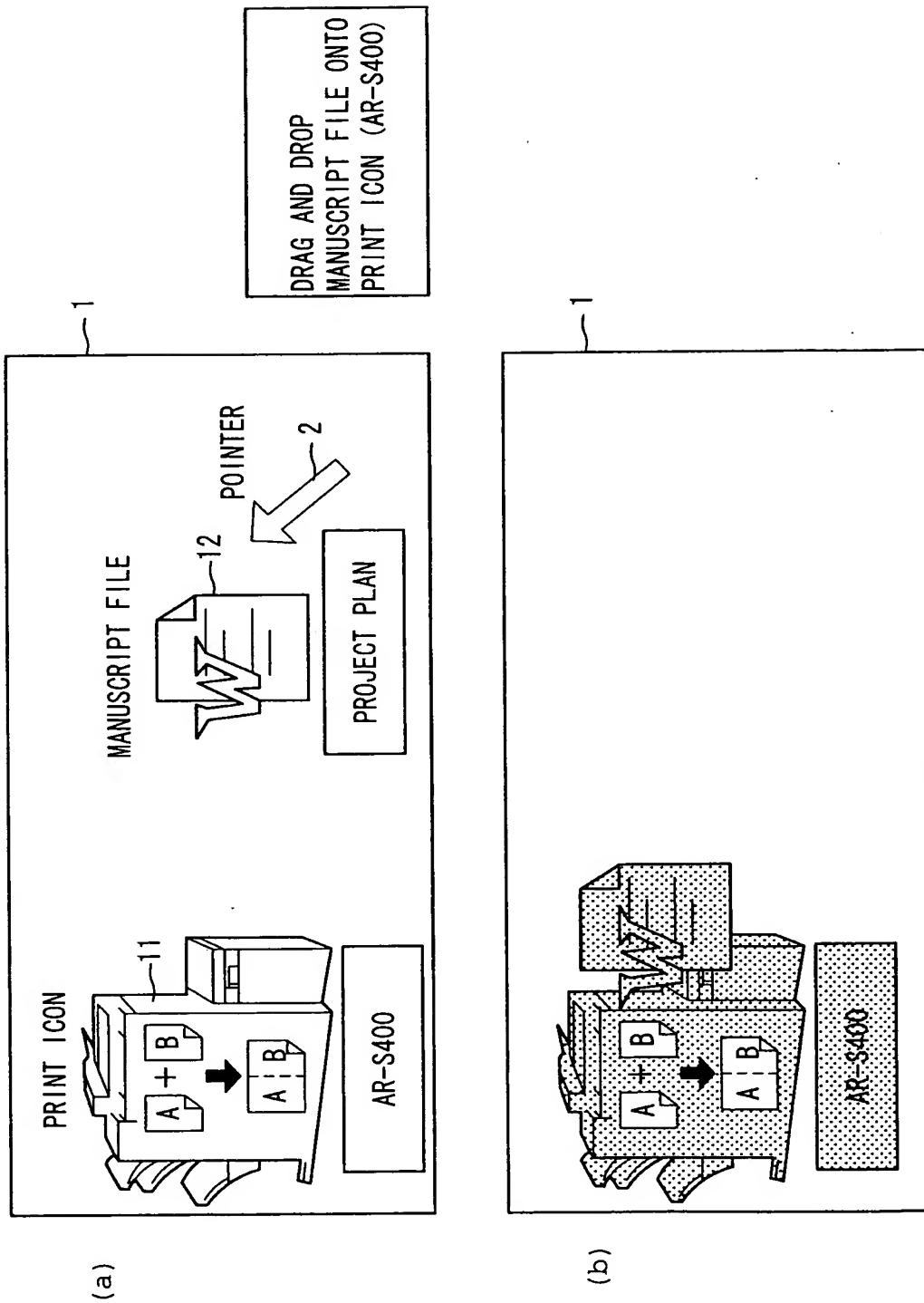
14.... copy number input frame

20 17.... window for display print conditions

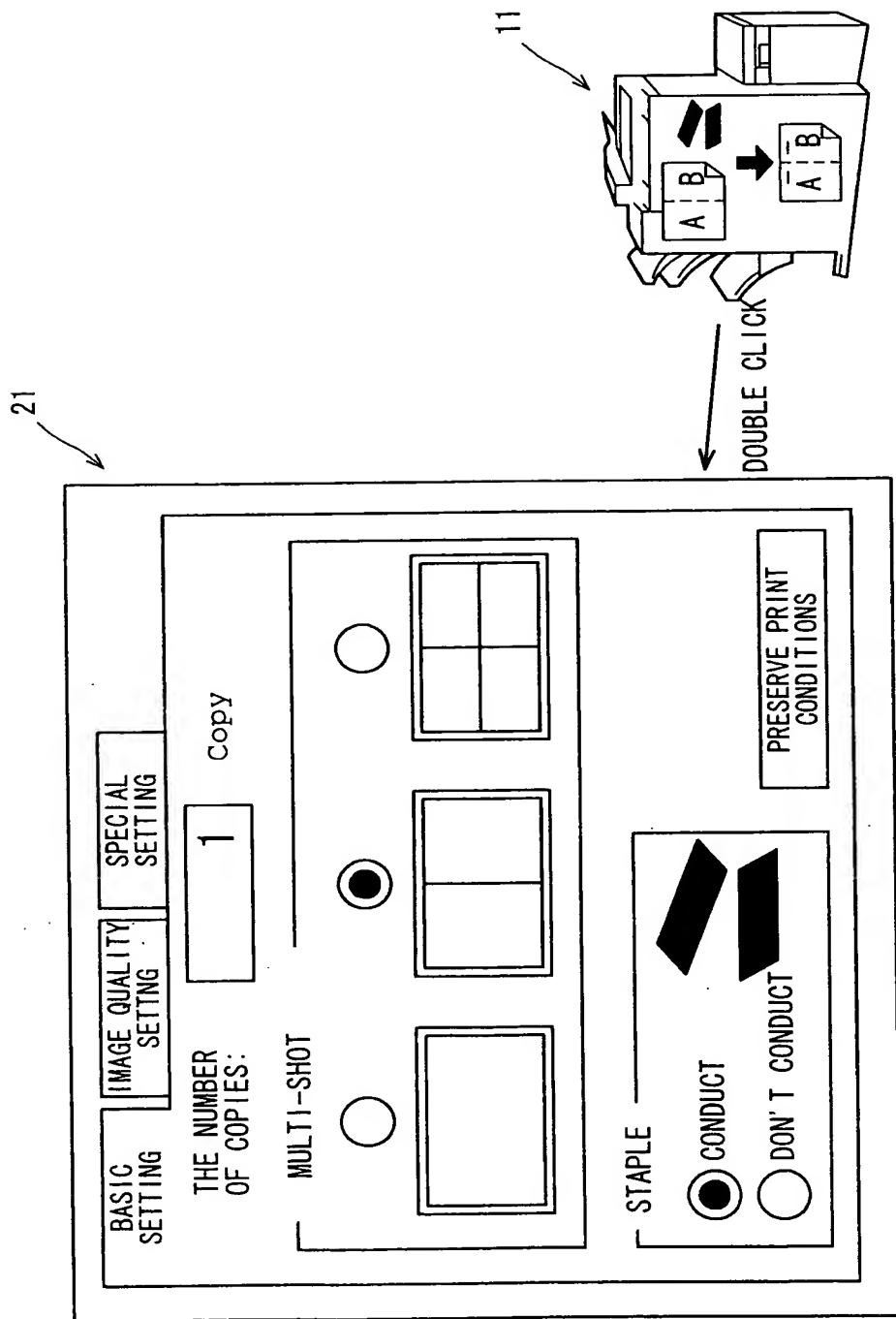
18.... window for displaying a preview of a file

21.... property setting frame

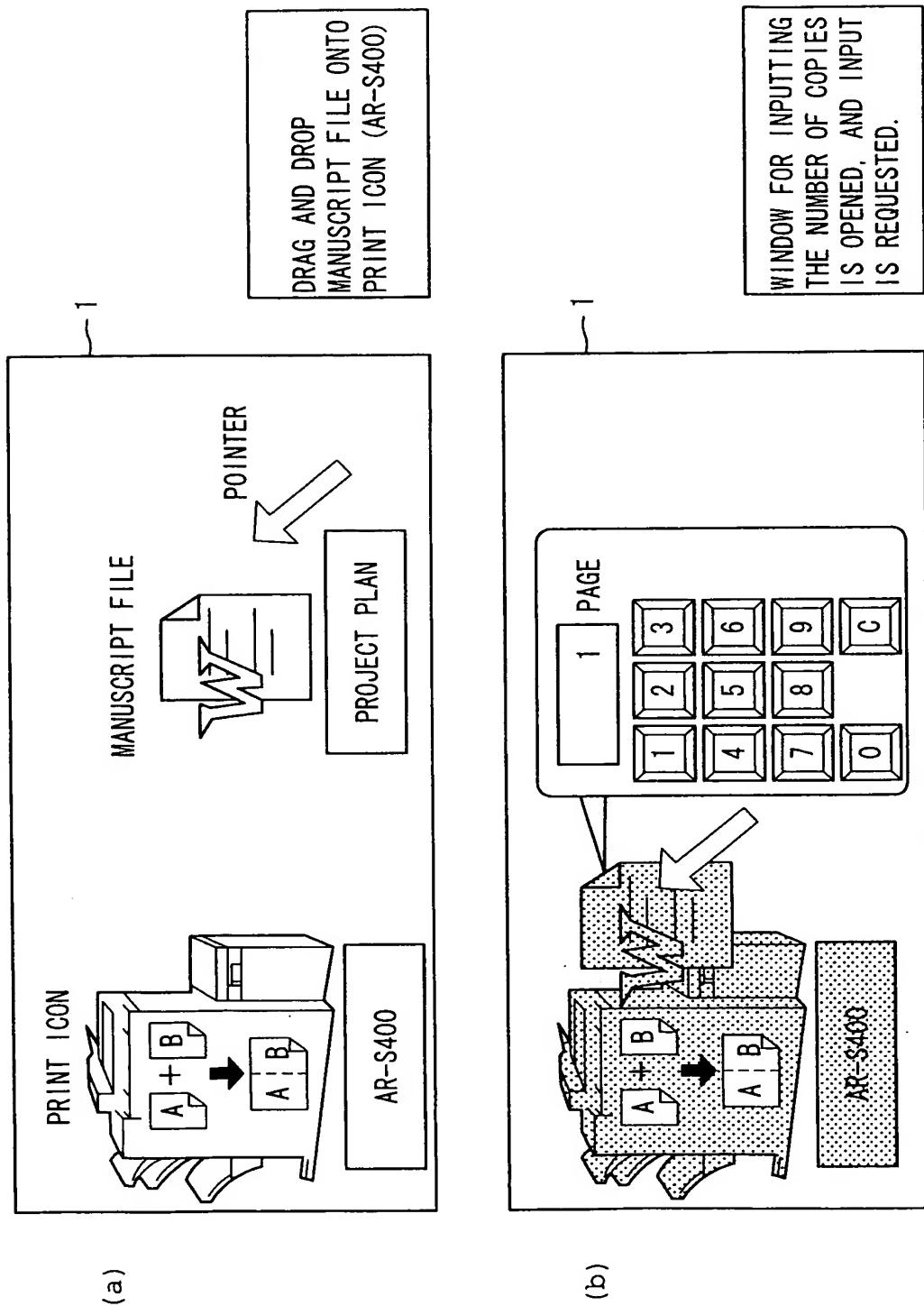
[FIG. 1]



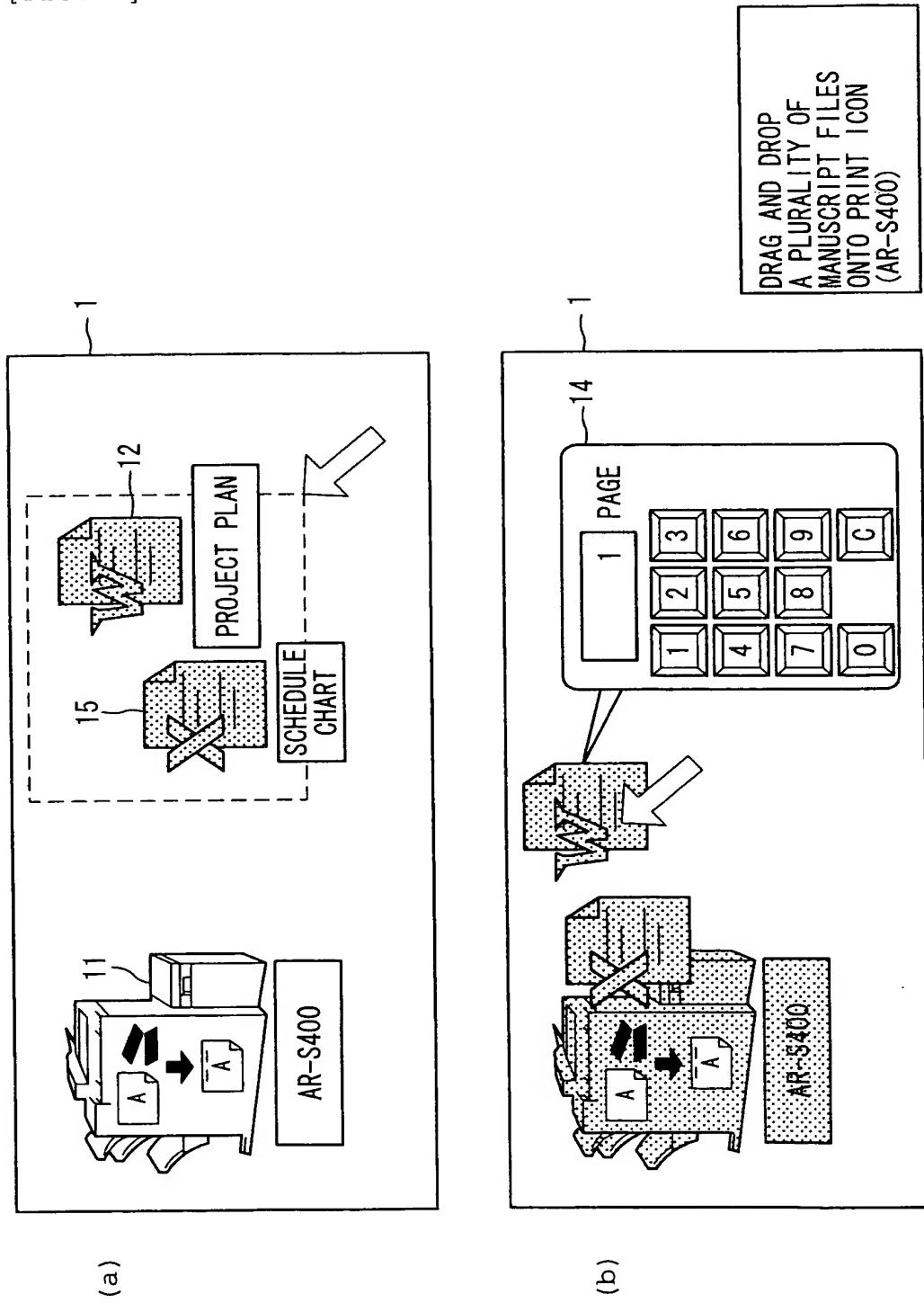
[FIG. 2]



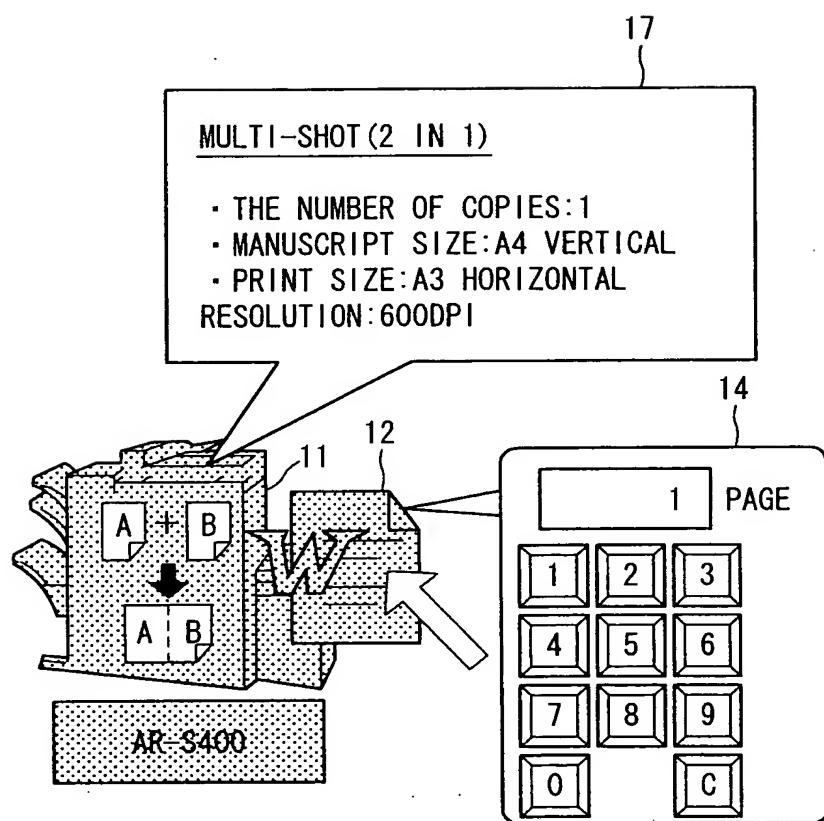
[FIG. 3]



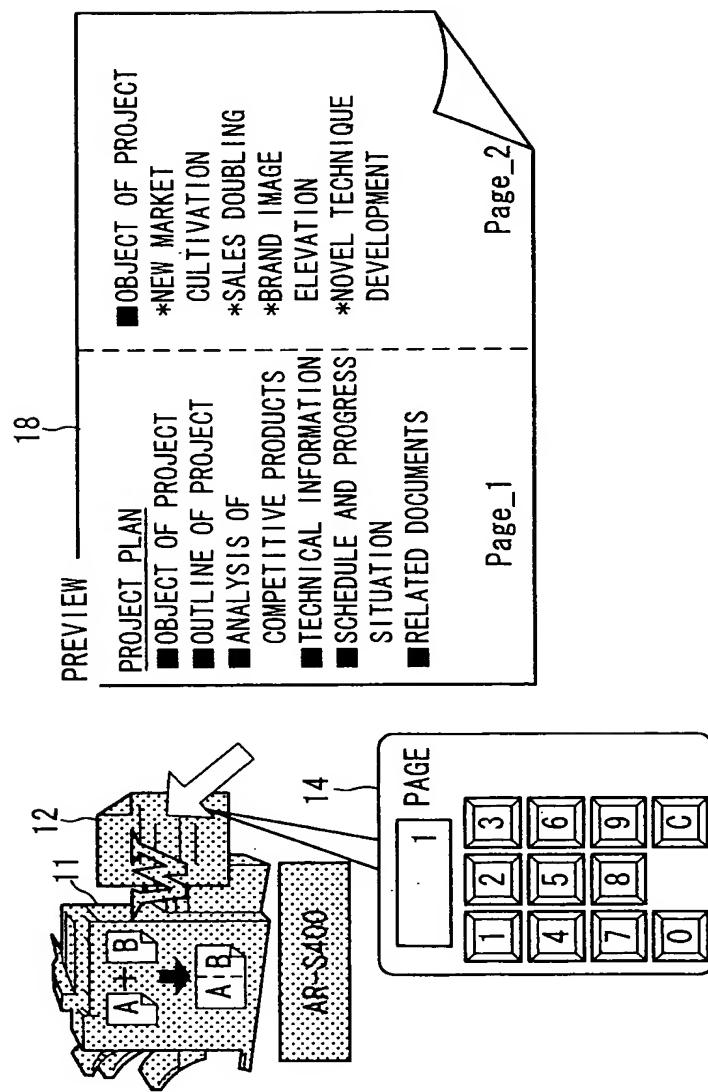
[FIG. 4]



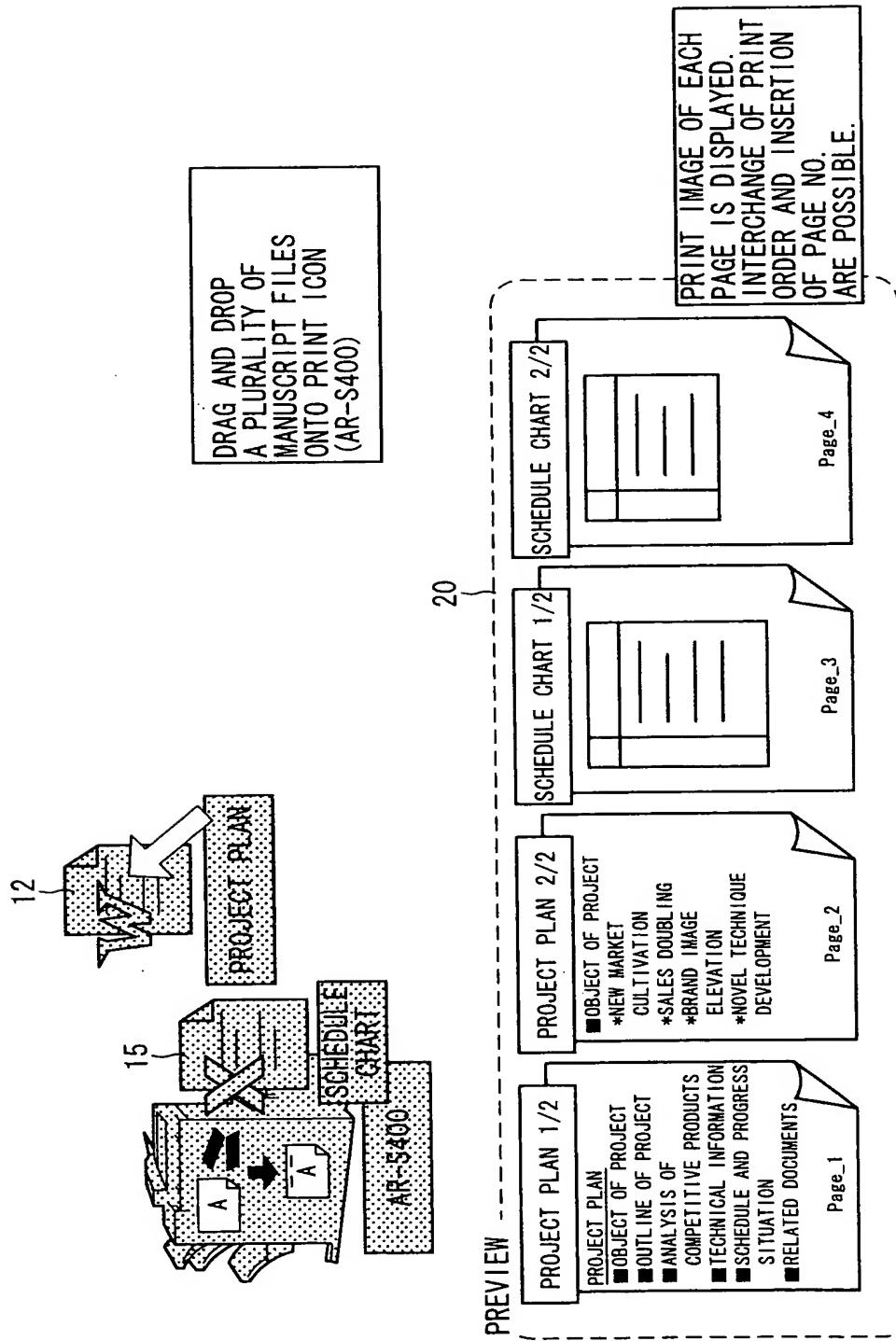
[FIG. 5]



[FIG. 6]



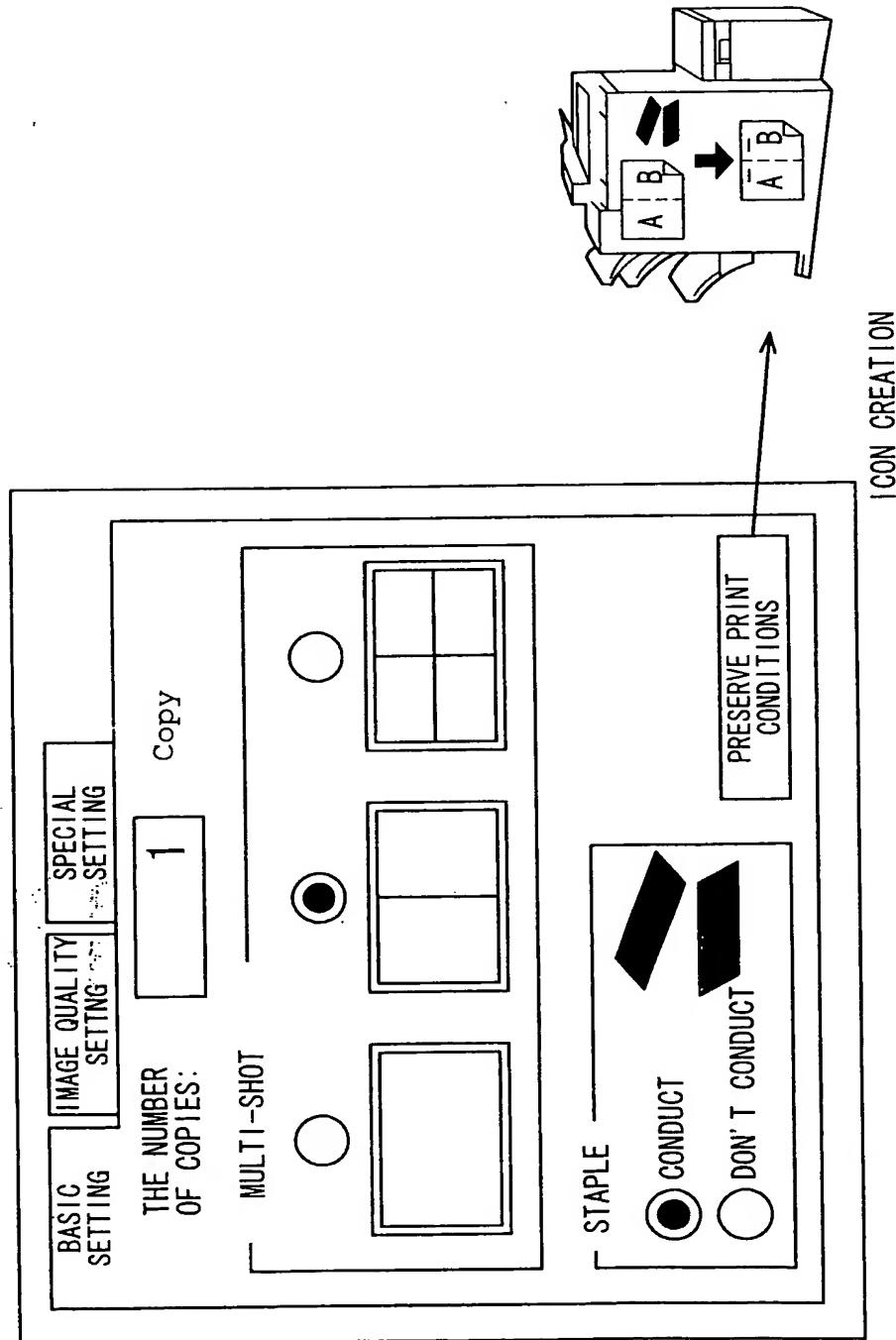
[FIG. 7]



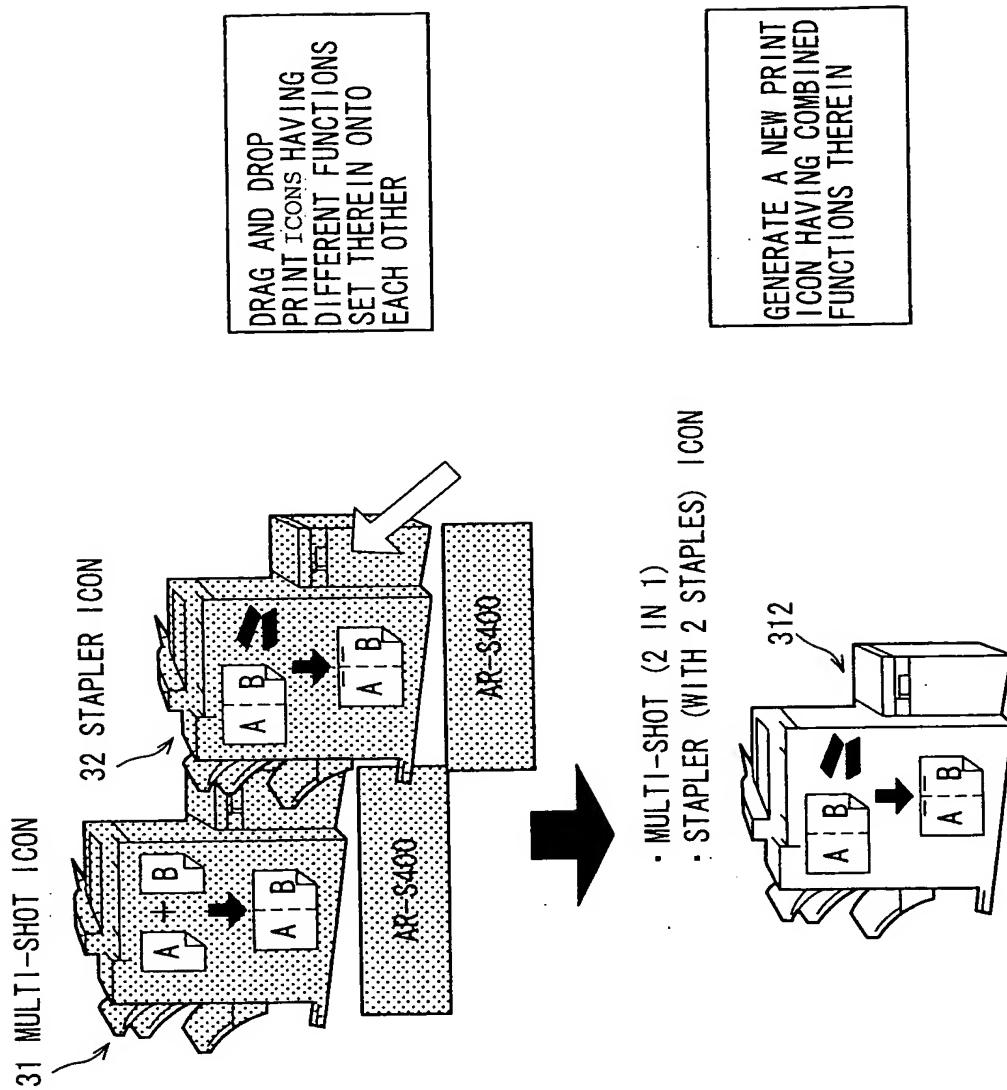
[FIG. 8]

MANAGEMENT NUMBER	ICON IMAGE	OUTPUT FORM	THE NUMBER OF COPIES
1		2-UP WITH STAPLE	1 COPY
2		2-UP	2 COPIES
3		1-UP WITH STAPLE	5 COPIES

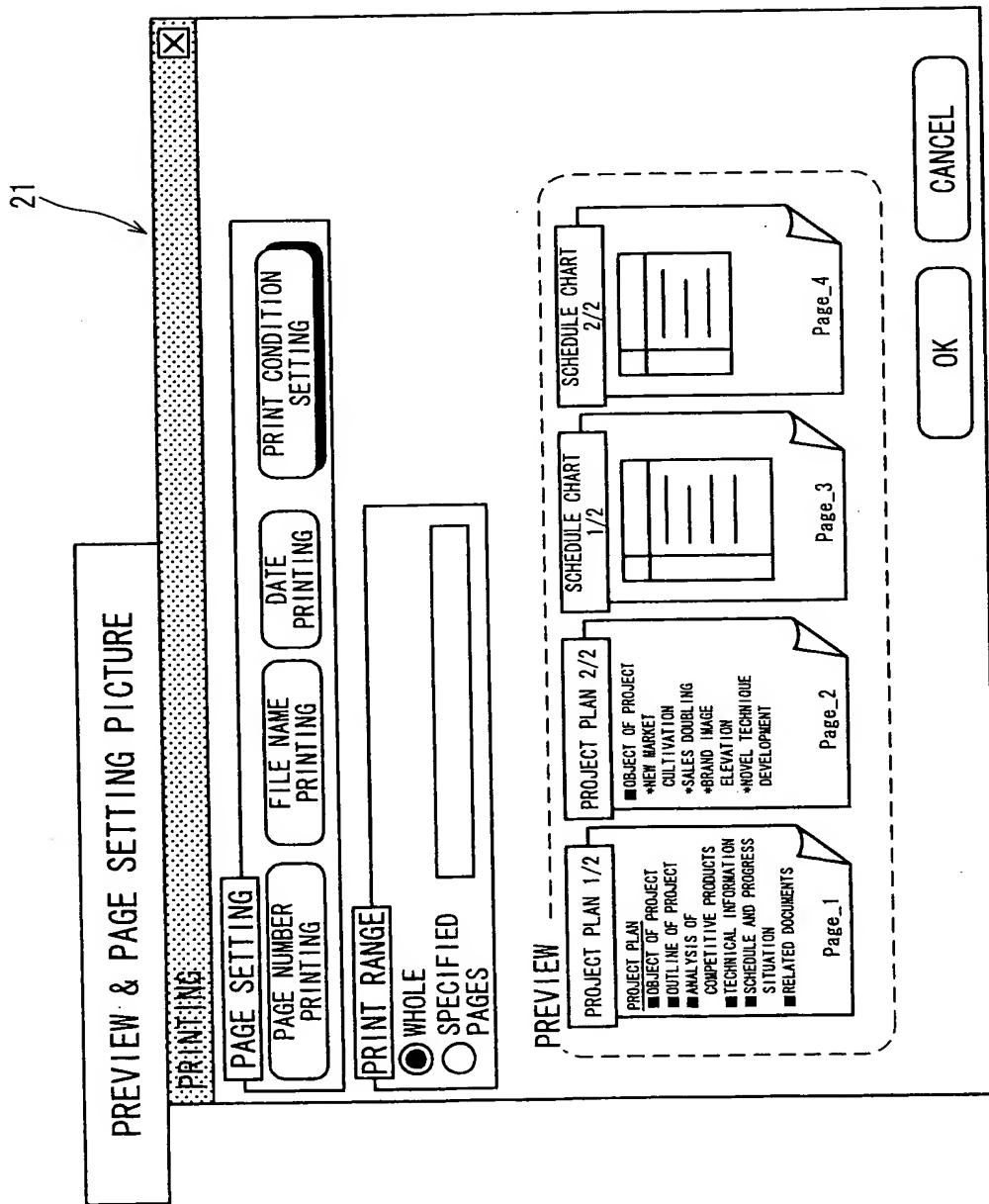
[FIG. 9]



[FIG. 10]



[FIG. 11]



[FIG. 12]

FUNCTION SETTING OF ICON B

FUNCTION	DUPLEX PRINTING		STAPLE		MULTI-SHOT		COPY
	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	1 in 1	2 in 1	4 in 1
DUPLEX PRINTING	ON	DUPLEX PRINTING					
	OFF	DUPLEX PRINTING					
STAPLE	ON	STAPLE ON	STAPLE ON	STAPLE ON	STAPLE ON	STAPLE ON	STAPLE ON
	OFF	STAPLE OFF	STAPLE OFF	STAPLE OFF	STAPLE OFF	STAPLE OFF	STAPLE OFF
MULTI-SHOT	1 in 1	2 in 1	4 in 1				
	2 in 1						
	4 in 1						
COPY COUNT A	COPY COUNT B (B>A)						

FUNCTION SETTING OF ICON A

[NAME OF DOCUMENT] ABSTRACT

[ABSTRACT]

[OBJECT]

To provide a print control operation system using icons in which when printing needs to be done after altering the print operation setting, the printing operation can be performed without opening a file to be printed on an application.

[MEANS FOR SOLUTION]

The means is a print control operation system using icons, wherein on a display frame for displaying a print icon having predetermined print conditions and an icon of a file to be printed, a print operation of the file is executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon, and the print icon is displayed on the display frame in a display form which allows the predetermined print conditions set in the print icon to be recognizable.

[SELECTED DRAWING] FIG. 1